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# THE ROYAL GARDENS

## ~ KEW ~

## ILLUSTRATED



*B. J. Walcott*

LONDON - EFFINGHAM WILSON

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ILLUSTRATIONS  
OF THE  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW,

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BY

E. J. WALLIS



1900.



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## NOTE.

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WILLIAM TURNER, sometimes called the "Father of English Botany," had a garden at Kew. He became Dean of Wells, and died in 1568. All trace of this garden disappeared, and the first beginning of Kew dates from the following century.

Lord Capel of Tewkesbury inhabited Kew House, south of the present palace. Evelyn speaks with praise in 1688 of his "Orangery and Myrtetum." In 1730, Frederick, Prince of Wales, obtained a long lease of Kew House, and in 1759, his widow, the Princess Augusta of Saxe Gotha, commenced the Botanic Garden which has been continued ever since. In 1841 Kew became a public scientific establishment.

The whole area of the Gardens is now nearly 300 acres. †

Mr. E. J. WALLIS has succeeded with admirable skill in photographing the most interesting and striking features of the establishment. Believing that many of those who come to Kew would wish to preserve some memorial of their visit, he has had a well chosen selection of his views reproduced. Of each of these I have willingly written a few words of description.

W. T. THISELTON-DYER,

*Director.*

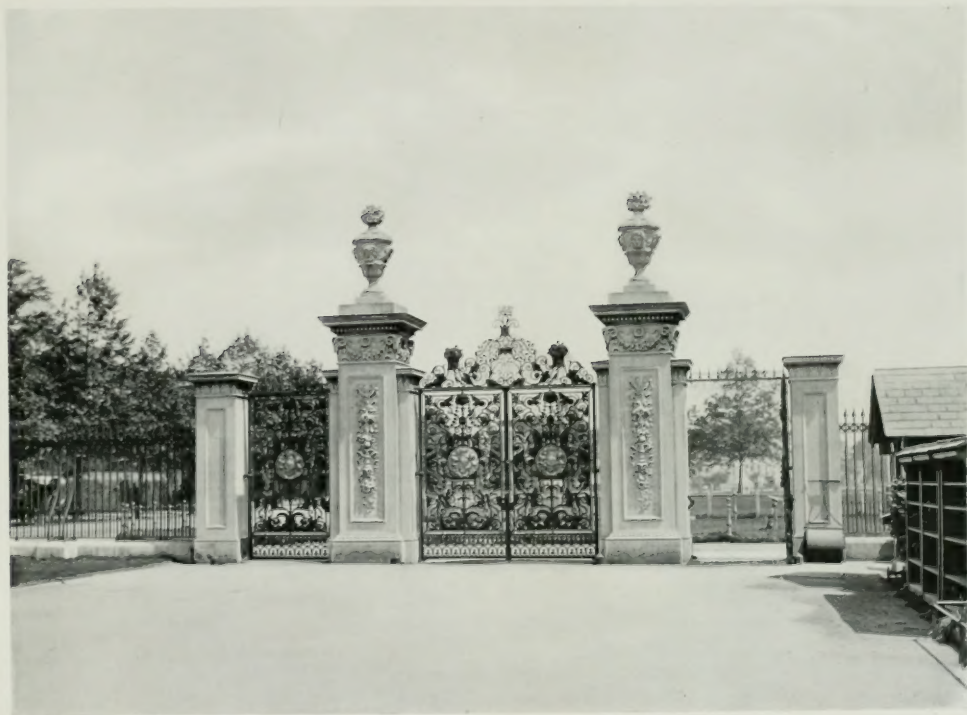
*April, 1900.*

**Principal Entrance Gate, Kew Green.**

Erected 1846, from the design of Decimus Burton.

The wrought iron gates by Walker & York.

The ornamental carving by J. Henning, Junior.



**Corsican Pine (*Pinus Laricio*), near principal entrance.**

Brought from the South of France to Kew, by R. A. Salisbury, Esq.,  
in 1814.



**Conservatory**, erected 1792-1894.

Filled throughout the year with showy flowering plants of more or less botanical interest. The view shows the Spring effect.

The plants in the foreground are *Paonia Moutan*, from Japan; the species was first introduced from China to Kew in 1789. f



**Succulent House** (interior).

Erected 1854; it is 200 feet long by 30 feet wide.

The view shows a mixed group of species of *Cercus*, *Euphorbia*,  
and *Aloe*.



**Succulent House** (interior).

The tall plant at the back is *Portulaca cynaroides*, from South Africa.

The foreground is filled with various species of *Agave*.



### **Victoria House**

Erected 1869 ; 53 feet long by 40 feet wide

The *Victoria regia*, the largest known water-lily, was introduced to Kew by seeds sent in 1849 from Demerara by Dr. Boughton. It has been grown annually ever since.



### **Rock Garden.**

Constructed in 1882 for the reception of the collection of herbaceous plants, the gift of the executors of the late / George Curling Joad, Esq., F.L.S. The collection has since been continuously added to.

The general idea was to reproduce the rocky course of a Pyrenean stream, the path, 514 feet long, representing the dry bed.



**Entrance near Victoria Gate.**

The large tree in the centre is *Quercus Ilex*, the Holm Oak, a native of the South of Europe.



**Palm House** (interior South end).

Groups of Cycads, on the left *Encephalartos Lehmanni*, on the  
right *Dioon edule*.



**Palm House** (interior, view from the gallery).

*Sabal blackburniana*, native of Bermuda.



**Palm House.**

Designed by Decimus Burton ; completed 1848. Length, 362 feet ; width of centre, 100 feet ; height, 66 feet.



### **Water-Lily House.**

Erected 1853; 44 feet square.

The large leaved plant on the right of the centre is *Nelumbium speciosum*, the Sacred Lotus, first introduced to Kew in 1784 by Sir Joseph Banks.



**Lime Trees, west of Broad Walk.**

Two fine specimens of the common Lime or Linden (*Tilia vulgaris*). The garden bell is hung in one of them.



**Pinetum.**

Group of Pines; that on the left is *Pinus Laricio*, Var. *pallasiana*.



### **King William's Temple.**

Designed by Sir Jeffrey Wyattville, and built 1837. The two statues came from Frogmore. They are by Peter Francavilla, who was born at Cambrai in 1548, and was counted the best pupil and chief follower of John of Bologna.



**Temperate House** (interior of central block).

The large Palm is the Date, *Phoenix dactylifera*; the Fern is *Dicksonia antarctica*, from New Zealand; the large leaved plant to the right is *Musa Basjoo*, from Japan.



**Temperate House** (interior of central block).

View from gallery.

The tall Palm is *Trachycarpus excelsa*, from China; on the right is *Araucaria Bidwillii*, the Bunya-Bunya of Queensland; in front of it is *Agathis robusta*, also from Queensland; the Palm to the left is *Archontophoenix Cunninghamii*.



**Temperate House** (Mexican wing).

Rockery at South end ; in the middle is *Circus giganteus* from Mexico; on the left at the back is a Papaw (*Caricacandamarcensis*); in front of it is *Leucadendron argenteum*, the Silver Tree of South Africa.



**Temperate House** (exterior), general view.

Designed by Decimus Burton.

The central block was completed in 1862. It is 216 feet long, 140 feet wide, and inside 60 feet high.

The octagons were finished in 1861, and are 54 feet in diameter.

The wings are each 116 feet long, 64 feet wide, and inside 38 feet high.

The South was completed in 1897; the North in 1899.

The total length of the building, including lobbies and porches, is 628 feet, and the greatest width is 164 feet.

The area of the whole structure is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  acres, more than three times that of the great conservatory at Chatsworth.

The Northern wing (Himalayan House), is devoted to Rhododendrons, Camellias, Bamboos, and half-hardy Indian and Chinese plants; the central block to Australian and New Zealand plants; the South wing (Mexican House) to the plants of warm temperate countries.



**Pagoda.**

Erected 1762 by Sir William Chambers. The base is 49 feet in diameter; the height 163 feet.

The angles of the roofs were originally "adorned with large dragons, eighty in number"; these have long since been removed.



**Arboretum, Oak Avenue** (leading to East Pinetum).

On the left: a row of Oaks, *Quercus pedunculata*, the remains of an old boundary hedge; on the right, a group of Larches, *Larix europaea*; in the middle distance, *Sequoia sempervirens* (Californian Red-wood).



**Arboretum** (Water-Lily Pond).

This is supplied with condensed steam from the water-works; it is therefore possible to grow in it many half-hardy aquatics.

The fine coloured Water-Lilies raised by Mons. Latour-Marliac are a conspicuous feature.



**Lake in the Arboretum.**

An artificial piece of water, commenced in 1856 and finished  
in 1870.



### **Rhododendron Dell.**

Formerly called the Hollow Walk. It was made some time previous to 1771, and according to tradition, by the Staffordshire Militia, when quartered at Kew, for the Princess Dowager of Wales (mother of George III.). It was probably designed by "Capability" Brown. It was planted with Rhododendrons by Sir William Hooker.



**Rhododendron Dell.**

Another view



### **Azalea Garden.**

Laid out by Sir William Hooker in 1854.

The so called "Ghent Azaleas," with which it is planted, are hybrids of garden origin; they are singularly attractive from the profusion and varied tints of their richly scented flowers.

The Lime Tree, *Tilia vulgaris*, in the distance is 100 feet high, and the tallest tree in the gardens.



**Azalea Garden.**

Tree of the Yulan (*Magnolia conspicua*), native of China and Japan, in flower in early Spring.



### **Queen's Cottage.**

Erected by George III. for the use of the Royal Family when they visited the menagery, which occupied the space immediately in front of it. The interior remained unchanged till 1898, when the furniture was removed.



**Queen's Cottage Grounds.**

Opened to the Public by direction of Her Majesty, May 1st,  
1899.

The foreground shows the effect of the Bluebells, *Scilla festalis*,  
in flower.



### **Palace.**

Erected about the time of James I. by Sir Hugh Portman, a Dutch merchant (sugar refiner), who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. It was hence called the Dutch House. It was used by Queen Charlotte as a nursery for the royal children.

Kew House, the Palace of George III., stood immediately in front of it, and was pulled down in 1803.

In a room on the first floor Queen Charlotte died on November 16th, 1818.



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